SPECTER
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AUGUST 1992
MATURE
TIM VIGIL • TOMMY PONS • LA MORRIS RICHMOND • ANDREW PEPOY

Boots Of the Oppressor

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Art By
Andrew Pepoy

Slow News Day

Story By Cliff Dunn

Art By Tommy Pons

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BOOTS OF THE OPPRESSOR

Welcome back to Hell, or the American South of more than a century ago. For many of the people of that time, horror was an everyday occurrence in their lives, a normal, spiritually crushing part of their existence. For them, the most terrifying of monsters had a human face.

This tale is the brainchild of Lamorris Richmond, and it is also his first story for Northstar. Lamorris cut his comic teeth at Now Comics, working on a wide variety of projects, before deciding to delve into the horror genre. He deftly manages to combine his twisted sense of the macabre with a great passion for history, and the result speaks for itself. His evil is not based on the fantastic, but on humanity (or lack of it). This may be his first horror story, but it definitely won't be his last.

The artist on this chapter, Andrew Pepoy, you may not recognize, but perhaps you've seen Spiderman, X-Factor, or The Flash? Well, then you've seen Andrew's work before. Besides inking all of these titles, he is currently working on the anxiously awaited Darkman mini-series with Javier "Ghost Rider" Saltarez. That, plus upcoming assignments with Comico, promise to keep him pretty busy in the forseenble future.

So settle in for chapter two of "Boots", and be sure not to miss Splatter #5 for the gut-wrenching conclusion to this truly horrific tale.

AFTER WE'Z CAUGHT J.J.'S RUNAWAY BREEDA, LIFE GOT BACK TA NORMAL..
..OR SO AH THOUGHT.
IT WAS AHBOUT THREE WEEKS AFTER SARAH'S MUTILATIONS THE KILLINGS STARTED.

MAH FRIEND THOMAS WHINKON WAS SHIT ON THE BOTTOM END'A WHITE TRASH. MOST UH HIS BREEDAS HAD MULATO PICKININIES.
LI' THET DON' YA?
HEH...WE ALWAYS TO'D EM NO SELF RESPECTIN' WHITE WOMAN WOULD HAVE 'EM.
THEY SAY WHINK NEVVA KNEW WHAT KILLED 'EM... HE NEVVA HAD A CHANCE.
AH KNOW FER A FACT THET WHINK WAS THE FIRST, BUT HE WUZZAN'T THE WORST.

...SOME DAYS LATER JARVIS BLINKON WUZ HUNTIN' 'SCAPED NIGGAS IN THE BOTTOMS WHEN HE DISAPERED...
IT WUZ WEEKS FO' WEZ FOUND WHUT WUZ LEFT OF HIS BODY.
...THERE'S NO WAY A' TELLIN' HOW MUCH BLINK SUFFERED AFORE HE DIED...
...AT LEAST WHINKON WENT QUICK.
CUT HIM DOWN.
BOOTS OF THE OPPRESSOR
LA MORRIS RICHMOND
WRITER
ANDREW PEPOY
ARTIST
SUSAN DORNE
LETTERER

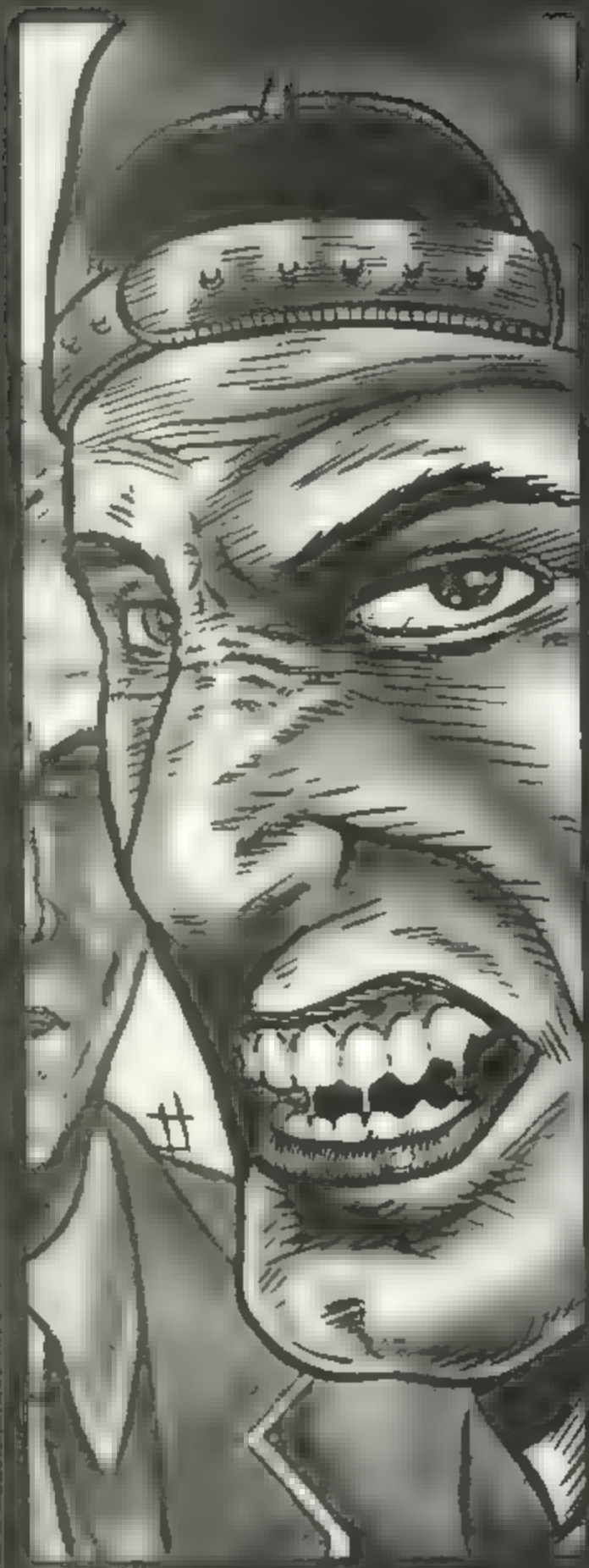
IN TOWN SPECULATION RAN WILD.
HUNG 'EM UP LIKE A HAM.
HAD SALT ALL IN HIS WOUNDS, I SWEAR.
WHAT.?
WHO COULD A DONE SUCHA THANG?!
NIGGRAS. JOHN BROWN'S NIGGRAS.
ARE YOO SURE?
WELL...
NO! WE'RE NOT SURE OF THET, WE DON'T KNOW WHO KILLED JARVIS BLINKON YET, BUT T'WERNT NO NIGGAS. SPECIALLY NO RENAGADE NIGGAS.
EVEN VOICES OF REASON WERE OVERCOME BY FEAR.
NO, SIR, DEN TELL ME WHO IF NOT.?
WHUT TH' SHERIFF SAY HE GONE DO?
NUTHIN' IS WHUT.
WHUTTAYA MEAN, PILE?
SOME WERE OVERCOME MO'BY HATE.
SAY'D HE GONE GID UPA VOLUNTEER PATROL TA FIND THEM RENAGADE NIGGAS DOIN' ALLA KILLINS.
TRIED TA SAY WE'S ALL BE SAFE IN OUR HOMES.
TOM WHINKON WEREN'T SAFE... NIGGAS KILLED HIM IN HIS OWN GOD-DAMNED BED.
KILLED HIM IN HIS NIGRESS' BED S'WATCHA MEAN WATCH YOUR MOUTHS, BOTH OF YOU.
WELL, IF AH EVEN SEE UH NIGGA AH THANK IS JOHN BROWN'S... IT'LL FIND ITS ASS DEAD.
MAH WORST FEARS WERE COMIN' TRUE. WHINKON AND BLINKON WERE DEAD, AND J.J. DISAPPEARED --MAYBE HE, TOO, HAD BEEN PUNISHED FOR SARAH.
AH TELL YOU, LYLE, AH'M NEXT AH KIN FEEL IT.
NEXT FO' WHUT?
NEXT TA DIE. THET'S WHAT FIRST WHINKON, THEN BLINKON. MY NAME IS NEXT IN ORDER.
DON'T START THET SHIT AGAIN. TOM AND JARVIS WERE KILLED BY RENEGADES.
NO, LYLE, WHUT AH KNOW IS BOTH DIED AFTER WE CAUGHT J.J'S RUN-AWAY -- THAT'S ALL.
THET THINKIN' IS FUCKED, YOU CALLOUS SONOFABITCH, AIN'T NO RENEGADE NIGGAS NO WAYS CLOSE. THERE'S SUMTHIN' MORE EVIL THAN HOSTILE NIGGAS HERE!! A THANG THET MADE J.J. HIDE, AND ME 'N YOU ARE NEXT.
SHHH..!
HE HADN'T HURD A WORD AH SAID.

EASY, DON'T SPOOK 'EM
HO 'DEMCLEETUS!
WHUT AH DO, MASSA?!
WHAR YOO FRUM, BOY?
OOVA YOUNDA, SUH, AH'M FRUM MASSA BECKA'S PLANTATION
YOO LYIN' NIGGA, YOO AHRE'BBA IN JOHN BROWN'S ARMY!
THET TRUE, BOY?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, NIGGA?
NAWL SUH...
NAWL SUH, AH SWARE!
NIGGA, IS YOO CALLIN' ME AH LYAH?!
AH MEAN, SHIT, LYLE YOO KNOW THET'S TOM BECKA'S MESSENGER BOY, JOHN.
SHUT TH' HAIL UP, IRWIN, AH DON'T KNOW THIS NIGGA FROM SHIT! AIN'T THAT RIGHT, BOY, AH DON' KNOW YOU FROM SHIT?
SUH... AH-
LET'S STRETCH THIS NIGGA FOR JARVIS!
FOR JARVIS!
AH'M SURE HE'S DOIN FLIPS IN HAIL -- ASS-HOLES!
AH HAD MAH FILL OF THEM.

DISPITE THE LOCAL MIS-CONCEPTION, EVIL WAS A WORK IN NEW HOPE AND I WAS DETERMINED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT...
BEFORE IT GOT ME.
AH HAD TO SEE JAY.
UH, JUDGE-I-EA...?
IRWIN KNOCKED YOU DEVA BURP! WHAT PLEASURE CAN I GIVE YOU TODAY?
UH, UMMM.. AH NEED TA SEE JAY.
OH, REALLY?! WHY SHOULD HE SEE YOU WHEN HE WON'T SEE ME?!
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU SAW JAY?
TOO DAMN LONG, IF YOU WILL PARDON MAH LANGUAGE. HE BEEN LOCKED IN HIS ROOM TALKIN' TA HIS FOOL SELF, WHICH REMINDS ME-
AH'VE GOT BETTA THANGS TA DO THAN STAND HEAH AND TALK TO A FOOL LIKE YOU.
JAY!
SWEET JESUS..
THIS WAS IT.. JAY WAS IT. HE WAS POINTIN' STRAIT AT ME LAUGHIN' AH HAD SEED HIM WITH MAH OWN EYES COULDN'T HEP BUT HEAR'M--HE SAID-

...AH WAS NEXT.
WHUT KINDA NIGGA MAGIC ARE YOO USIN' TA KINTROL JAY—SARAH? YES, AH GUESSED WHO YOO WERE.
THEN IF'N YOU SO CLEVVA YOU'D A FIGURED IT WAS HIS BOOTS MADE FRUM MAH SKIN.
SO THET'S WHUT HE DID WI' YO SKIN... MY GOD... YOU USED JAY TA KILL OUR FRIENDS!
MAH RAPIST... I.E. YOO.

AH DID A LOT O' TH THINK N WHILE AH WUZ WAITIN FO' THIS WITCH NO MATTA WHUT AH DID AH WASN'T GONE SUB MIT TA THIS NIGGRA'S REVENGE
GOD IS ON MAH SIDE
HURTS DON'T IT?
TO BE CONCLUDED



SLOW NEWS DAY

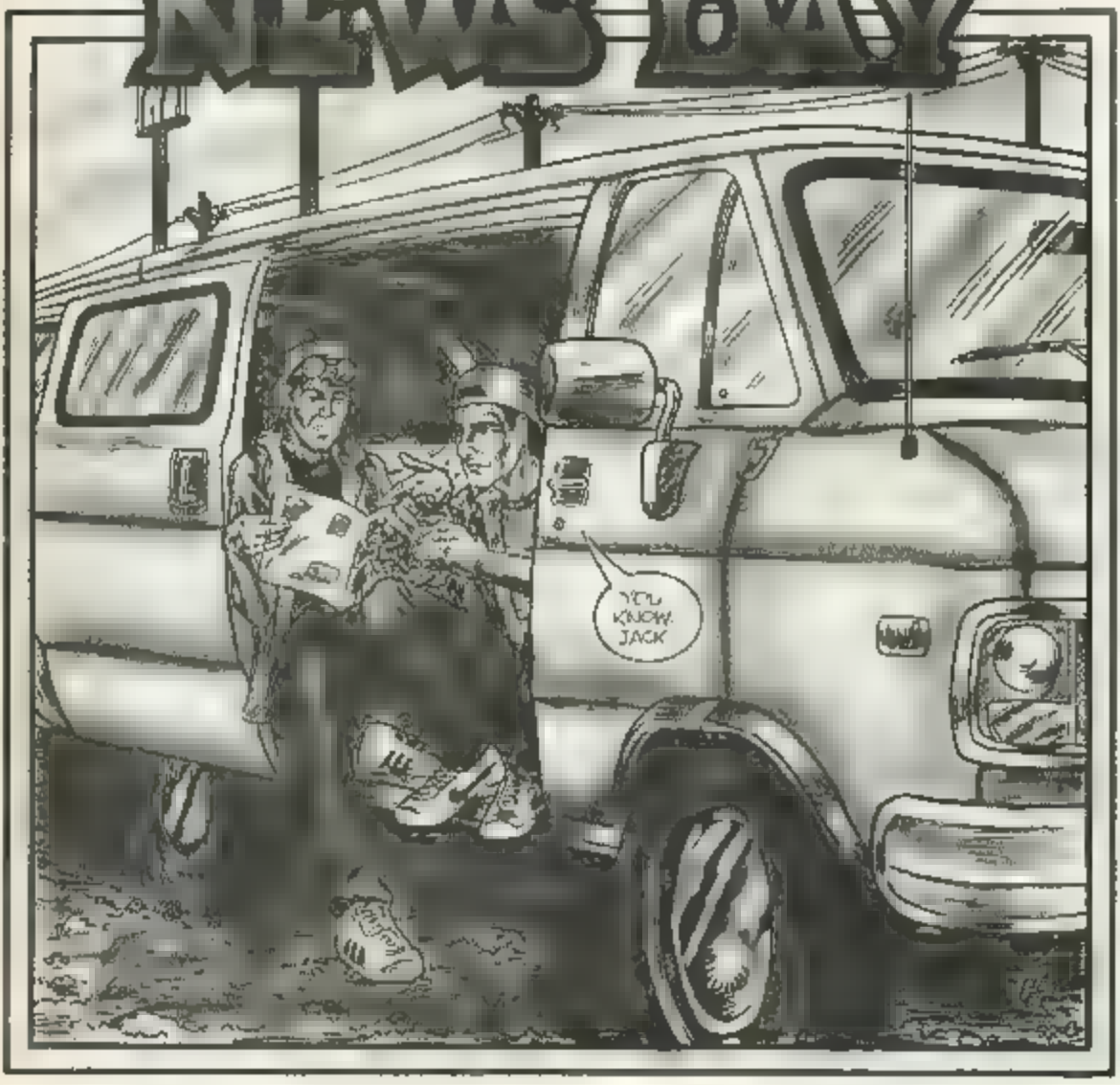
4:30 PM ON ANY GIVEN DAY AT A BUSY INTERSECTION
NO NO THAT'S ALL WRONG
CONTAK THING FROM VENUS WAS A REMAKE OF IT CONQUERED THE WORLD THE EYE CREATURES WAS A REMAKE OF INVASION OF THE PUPPETEERS

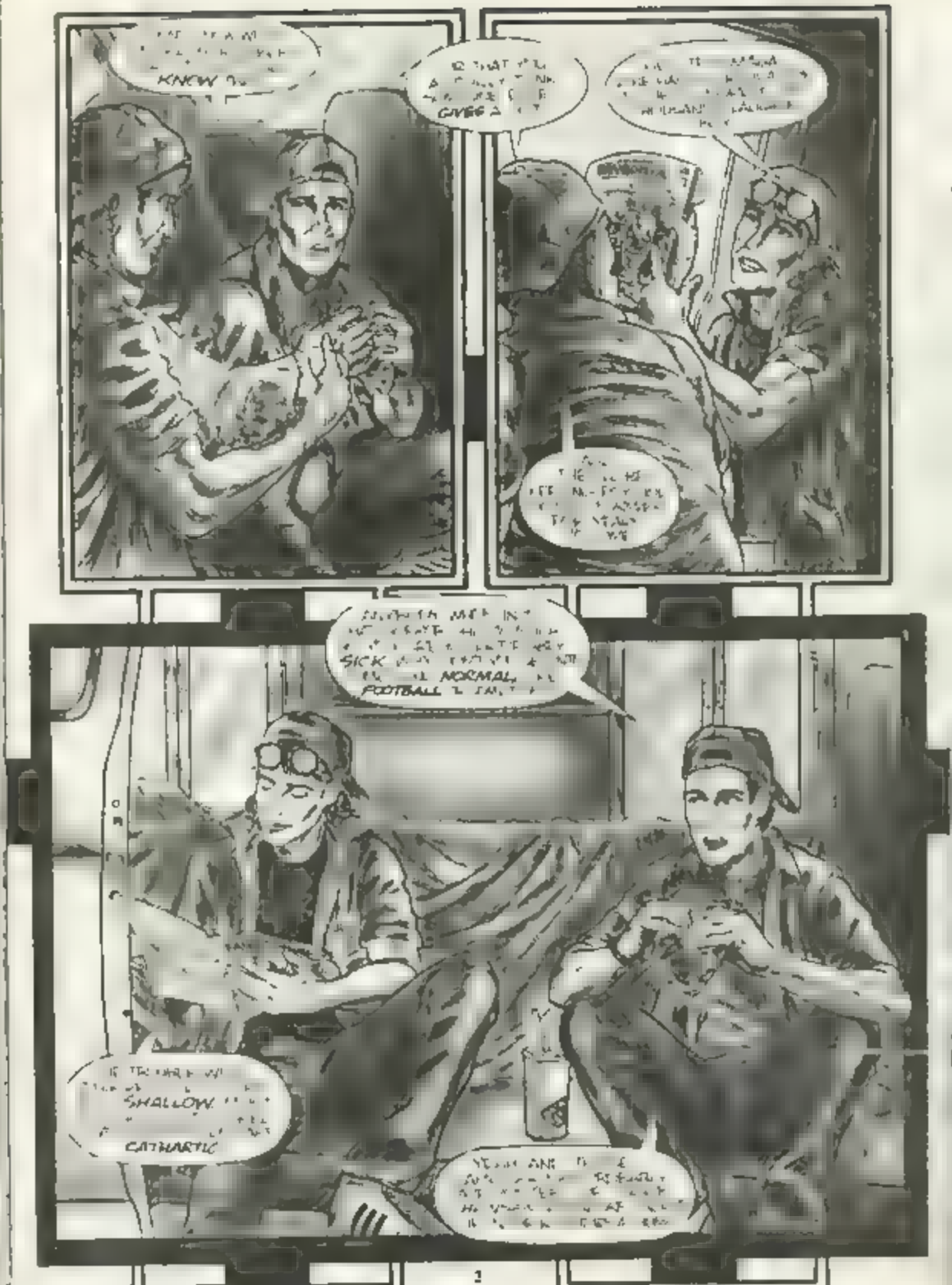
SLOW NEWS DAY

Story By Clif Dunn

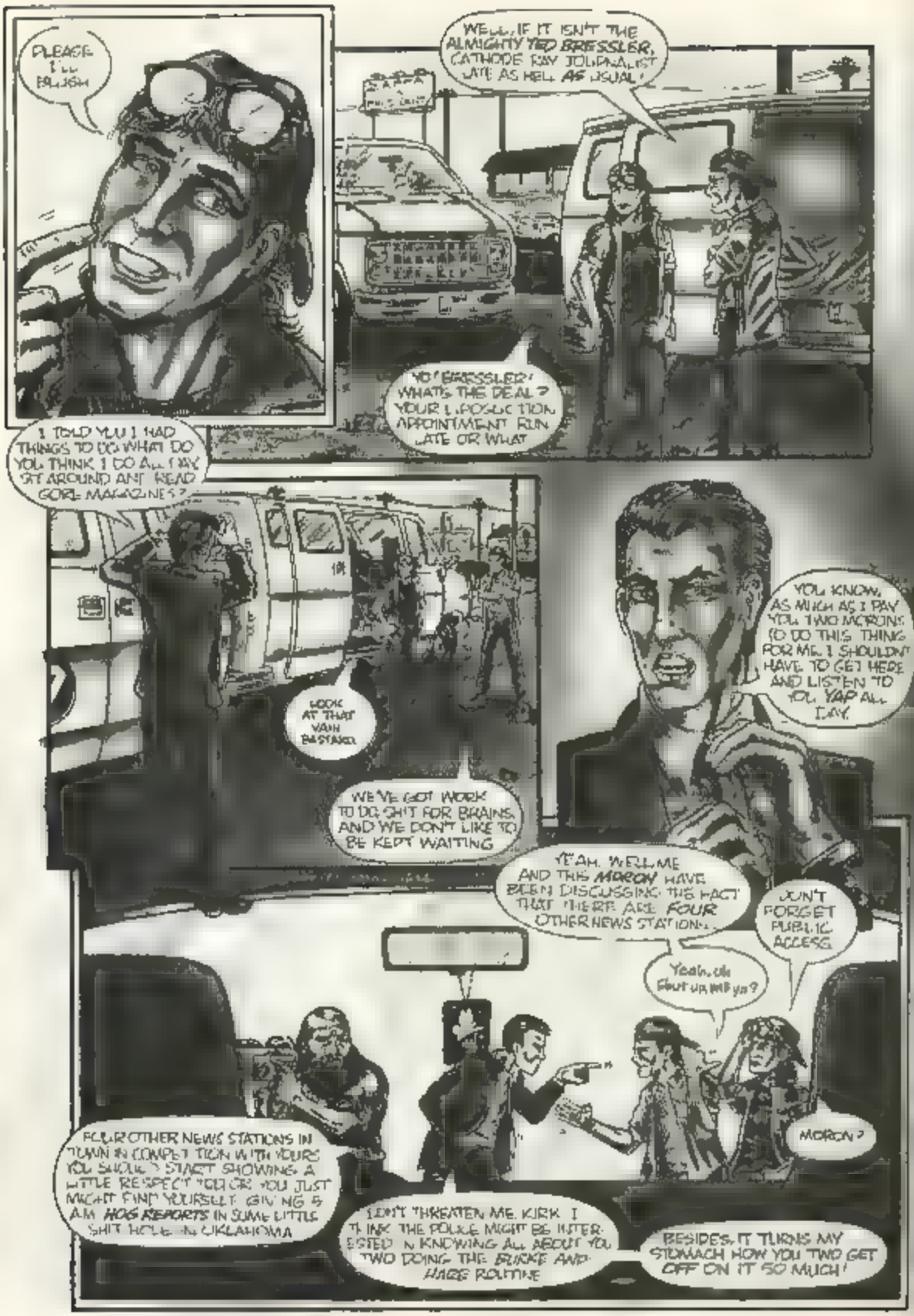
Art By Tommy Pons

Lettering By Tim Eldred

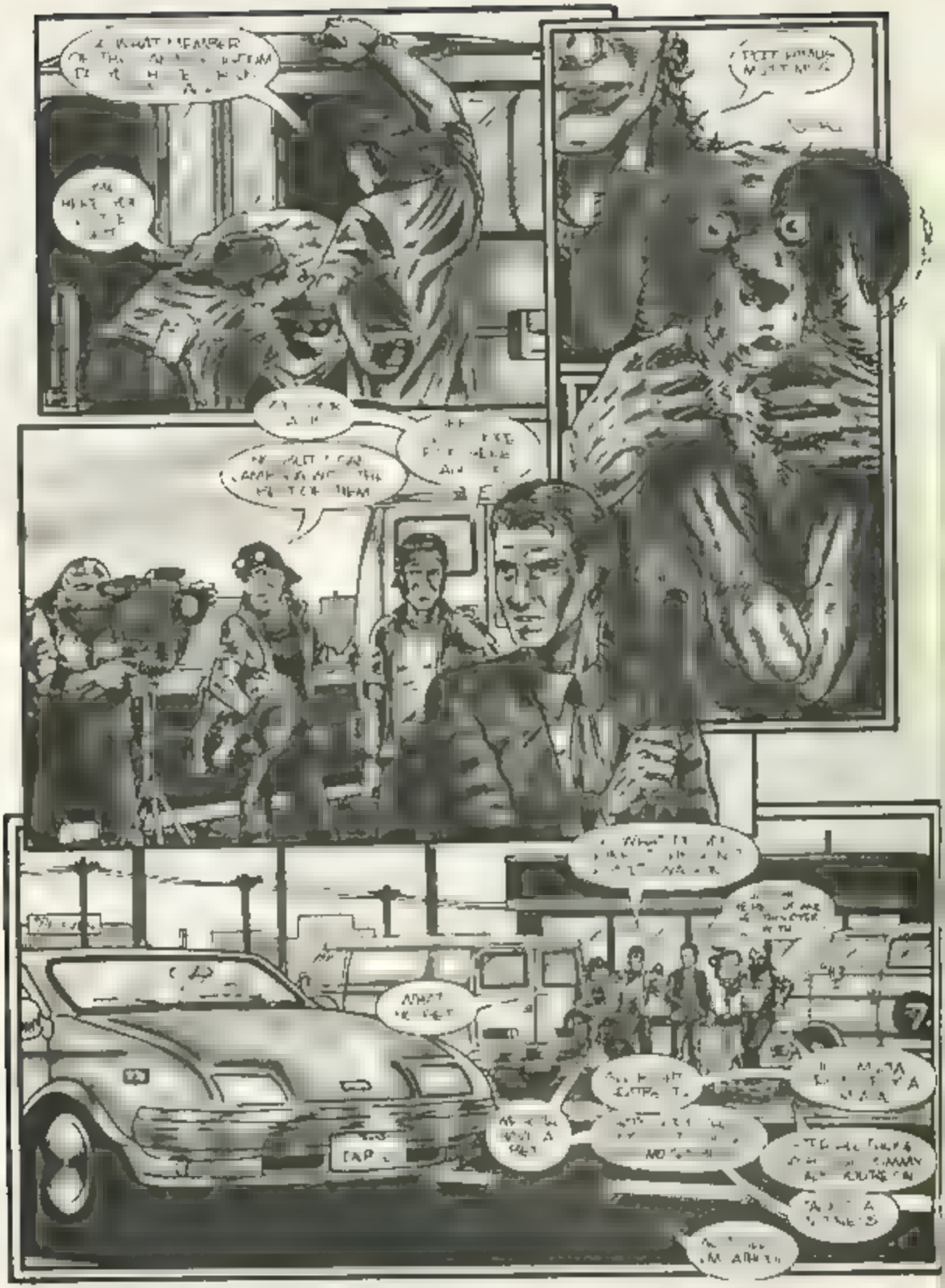


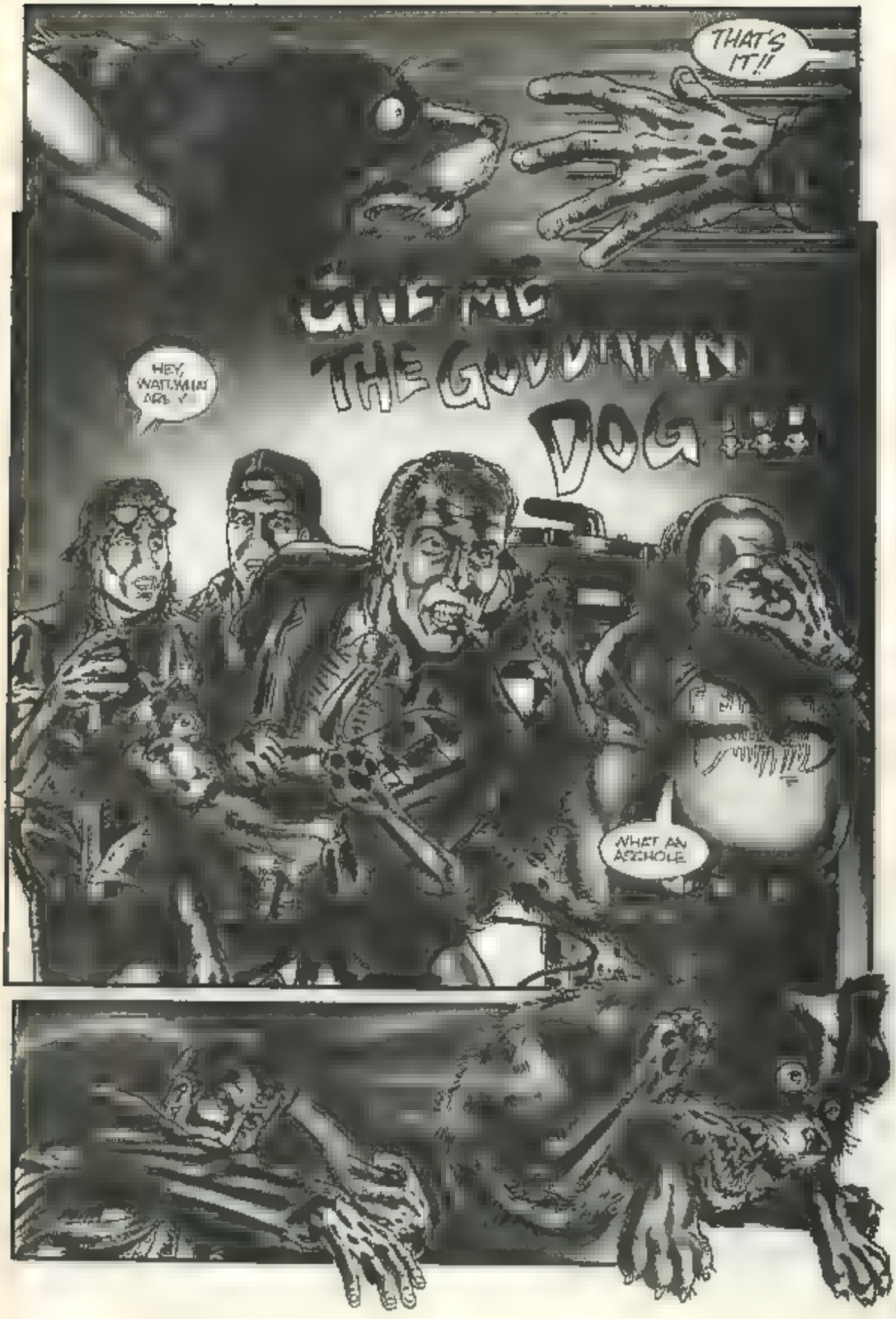

KNOW
GIVES A
SICK
NORMAL
FOOTBALL
SHALLOW
CATHARTIC

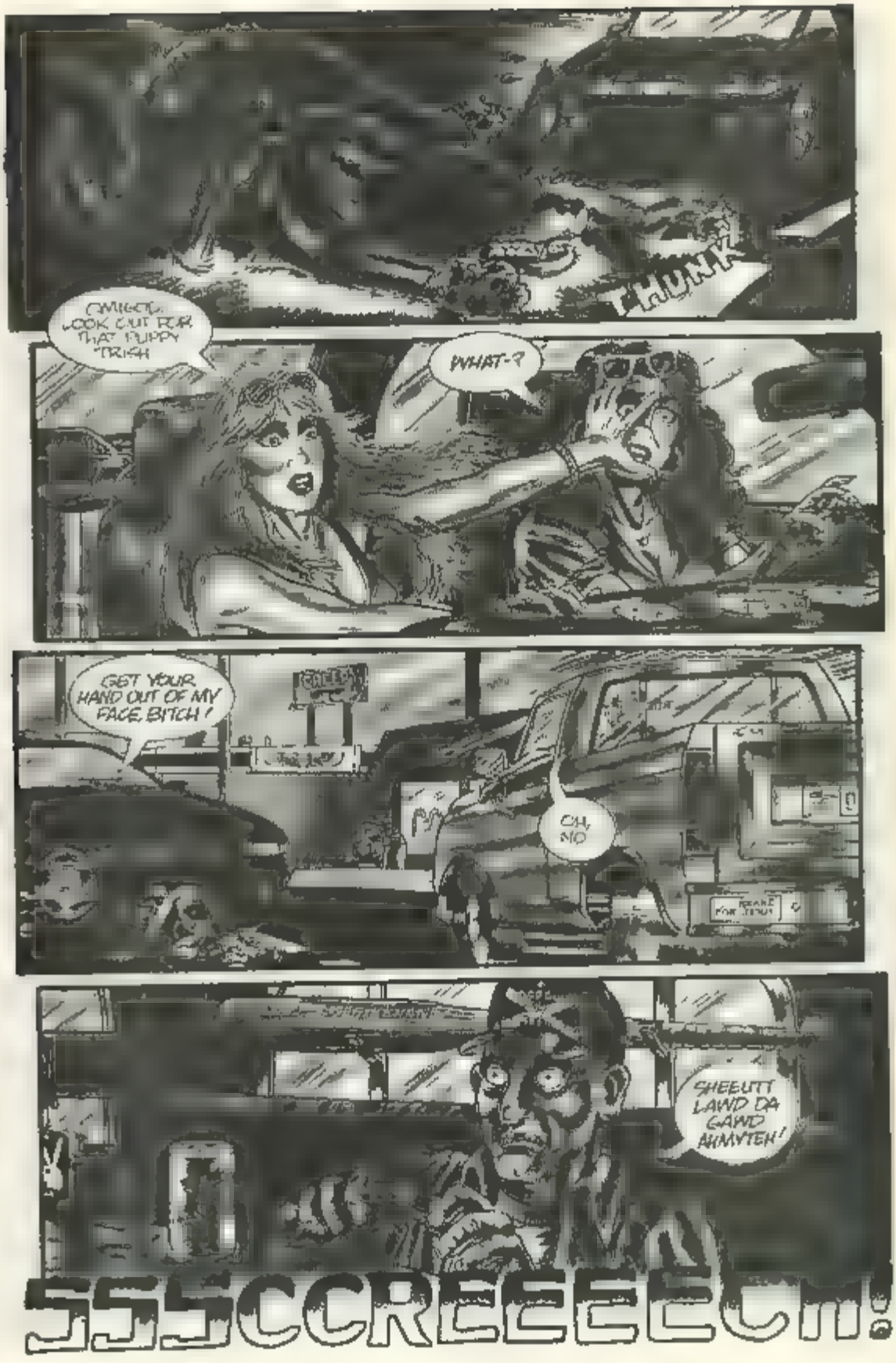
BESIDES, HORROR FILMS DON'T SCARE ME.
TOFU BURGERS AT MCDONALD'S NOW THAT SCARES ME.
WHERE THE HELL IS BRENDA? SHE'S ALWAYS LATE.
WHEN I CALLED HIM EARLIER HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A GATE BREAKING DOWN AND SOMEONE PROWLING IN SOMEONE'S BACKYARD BOTHERING THEIR DOG.
"JUST LITTLE CHICKEN SHIT TAKES UP MORE OF OUR TIME EVERY TIME WE DO THIS THING. I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE TALKED TO SOMEONE OVER AT CHANNEL 5 - SOMEONE WITH A REAL PAIR OF BALLS."
ONLY THING IS - WE BREAK OFF WITH OL' ED, WE'D HAVE TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GO SHOOTING OFF HIS MOUTH
YEAH, BIG DEAL. ONE LESS TALKING HEAD THE WORLD HAS TO DEAL WITH, WE'D BE DOING EVERYONE A FAVOR
NAH. I'M SURE THERE'S PROBABLY ANOTHER FAIRLESS MONEY-GRUBBER IN BREECHES LURKING UNTIL WANT TO BOOST THEIR RATINGS
I DUNNO, JUST AS SOON AS I GET MY CUT.
YOU'VE ONE HELL OF A HUMAN BEING, JACK.


PLEASE I'LL BELIEVE
WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE ALMIGHTY TED BRESSLER, CATHODE RAY JOURNALIST LATE AS HELL AS USUAL!
YO! BRESSLER! WHAT'S THE DEAL? YOUR LIPOSUCTION APPOINTMENT RUN LATE OR WHAT
I TOLD YOU I HAD THINGS TO DO. WHAT DO YOU THINK I DO ALL DAY SIT AROUND AND READ GORE MAGAZINES?
LOOK AT THAT VAIN BASTARD
WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO, SHIT FOR BRAINS, AND WE DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITING
YOU KNOW, AS MUCH AS I PAY YOU TWO MORONS TO DO THIS THING FOR ME, I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO GET HERE AND LISTEN TO YOU YAP ALL DAY.
YEAH. WELL, ME AND THIS MORON HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE FACT THAT THERE ARE FOUR OTHER NEWS STATIONS
DON'T FORGET PUBLIC ACCESS.
Yeah, uh shut up, will ya?
MORON?
FOUR OTHER NEWS STATIONS IN TOWN IN COMPETITION WITH YOURS. YOU SHOULD START SHOWING A LITTLE RESPECT, OR YOU JUST MIGHT FIND YOURSELF GIVING 5 A.M. HOG REPORTS IN SOME LITTLE SHIT HOLE IN OKLAHOMA
DON'T THREATEN ME, KIRK. I THINK THE POLICE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING ALL ABOUT YOU TWO DOING THE BURKE AND HARE ROUTINE
BESIDES, IT TURNS MY STOMACH HOW YOU TWO GET OFF ON IT SO MUCH!

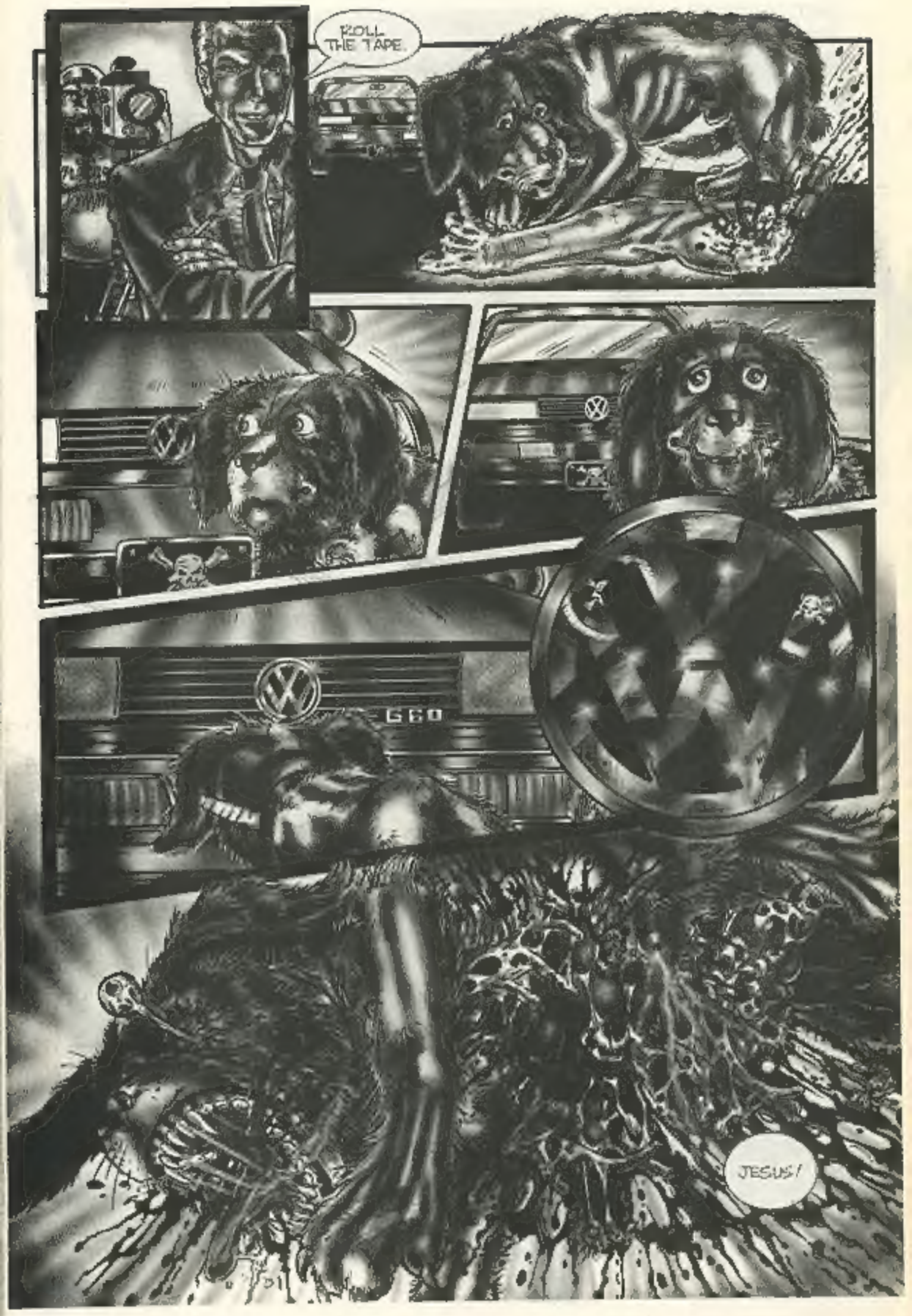
WHITE ALBUM
SHUT UP AND GET THE DOG, JACK!!
ALRIGHT IT'S SHOWTIME!
DON'T




THAT'S IT!!
GIVE ME THE GODDAMN DOG!!!
HEY, WAIT...WHAT ARE Y
WHAT AN ASSHOLE


THUNK
CHRIST! LOOK OUT FOR THAT PUPPY TRISH
WHAT-?
GET YOUR HAND OUT OF MY FACE, BITCH!
OH, NO
SHEEUTT LAWD DA GAWD AHMYTEH!
SSSCCREEECH!

YYYY!


ROLL THE TAPE.
GTI
JESUS!

YEAH! A VOLTS-WAGON! CAN I CALL 'EM OR WHAT?
SO THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN BY FAHRVERG-NUGEN.
AH, WELL... WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK.
YEAH. CONTUSIONS, SEVERED LIMBS, BROKEN BONES, SERIOUS LOSS OF BLOOD.
I DON'T KNOW, CHIEF... LOOKS PRETTY BAD.
AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO RULE OUT DEATH AS A POSSIBILITY.
I KNOW. I GET THE FIRST ROUND AFTER THIS GIG.
ALL TOO TRUE, PAL. AND SINCE FROM HERE IT SEEMS THAT YOU GOT FIFTY BUCKS COMING TO YOU...
THAT'S A PLAN. BUT FIRST, WHY DON'T WE BE RESPONSIBLE, CARING, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS AND GET THOSE HAPLESS UNFORTUNATES AN AMBULANCE.
SIREN
LIGHTS
LUCKY FOR THEM WE WERE SO CLOSE BY.
ACME
ACME
AMBULANCE
CAIN, HERE I COME.
WEEOOOWEE
AC
WAIT 'TIL JACK AND KICK START PULLING OUT THE BODIES AND THEN I'LL START MY REMOTE.
YEAH, SURE. UH, YOU KNOW, WE'VE NEVER ASKED YOU BEFORE...

...BUT WHAT DO YOU TELL PEOPLE WHEN THEY ASK YOU HOW YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO GET EXCLUSIVES SO FAST ON TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS?
I JUST QUOTE LOIS LANE, JOURNALIST.
A GOOD REPORTER DOESN'T GET GOOD STORIES...
...A GOOD REPORTER MAKES THEM GOOD!
MOX NIX, PAL.
LET'S DO IT.
ACME AMBULANCE
ON MY CUE: 4... 3... 2...
THIS IS TED BRESSLER, ACTION 7 NEWS AT THE CORNER OF...
FIN.

MAILBAG

SEND ALL LETTERS & COMMENTS TO 2551 N CLARK ST. #402 CHICAGO, IL. 60614

Dear Goremiesters,

Splatter #3 was great! I know it may sound sick, but I just love the stuff coming out of Northstar these days. Where do you find these guys, anyway? I really got into Mort Castle & Mark Nelson's **"Night City"**. Very topical indeed. I guess we don't have to look very far for "real" horror these days. Now that's something we all should be scared about. Anyway, keep up the good work, stay awake, and don't compromise.

Bill Wise
Oakland, Ca.

Thanks for the words of encouragement, Bill, we appreciate it. As for where we find our talent, well, we'd rather not say. It's not that we're secretive or any thing like that, but some of our artists would rather not be found! Here's a hint though. Next time you see a guy ranting & raving on some street corner about some social injustice or fallacy that really pisses him off, ask him to sign one of your Northstar books. And make sure to get your pen back!

*If you really dug the work of Mort Castle & Mark Nelson, (and we certainly believe that you should) be sure to check out **Slash #1**, on sale now. Once again, they focus on the urban horror that surrounds us, threatening our very lives- that's right- the cops!*

Hey Splatpack,

More Vigil! More Vigil! More Vigil! More Vigil! More Vigil! More Vigil!

Carey Norton
Long Island, NY

*What, are you related to the guy!?! Well, for starters, how's the cover on this issue? What, not enough? O.K., check out **Fritz Whistle #1**, currently on the stands. If your shop doesn't have it, tell them to get it! Be assertive! That still won't do? Well, then be sure to order the limited edition **Tim Vigil Macabre Erotica Portfolio**, due out soon from Northstar! There! that ought to satisfy your ravenous Vigil appetite! Now shut up already!*

Dear Northstar,

Where the hell is Splatter #4? What gives? I wish you guys would get on a regular schedule, for crying out loud. I'm sick to death of waiting, I need my fix, man. But wait I will. You guys are the best in the Horror business. Your just too damn slow.

T.J. Reynolds
Cleveland, Oh

Sorry about the delay, T.J., and thanks for being patient with us. As you can see, it was worth the wait.

*Currently, we are planning on going to a bi-monthly schedule, alternating **Splatter & Slash**, so you never have to go a month without new Northstar comics. Now wouldn't that make you happy? Well, that, plus some very special projects we've got in the works promise to make the upcoming months truly a feast for shock horror fans around the globe. Yes we are expanding!*

Northstar Editors,

Wow! that's the only word I can use to describe **"Boots Of The Oppressor"**. I was blown away by that story, and I mean it. I was outraged, not at Northstar for publishing it, but in a moral sense. It's not very often that a comic book can have that kind of effect on me. That is certainly one of the most disturbing horror stories I've ever read, and I anxiously await the next installment. Keep up the good work. You've got guts.

Barb VanMeter
Naples, Florida

***"Boots"** had that kind of effect on me too, Barb. Good horror doesn't have to rely on vampires or werewolves to scare you, but on the plausibility of the situation presented. Reality is a good starting point. I've never met a vampire I didn't like, but I have run into some truly horrible people, if you get my drift. Well, I'm outta room, so till next issue, stay sick!*